

# Support House Bill 6195



*Strengthen home healthcare choices for seniors and persons with disabilities*

Dear Michigan Senators and Representatives:

**We the undersigned urge your support of House Bill 6195, which will strengthen Michigan's Home Help program by making permanent the Michigan Quality Community Care Council, or MQC3.**

More and more of our loved ones are choosing to receive the supports and services they need in their own homes instead of in nursing homes. Studies show that in-home care allows seniors and persons with disabilities to remain healthy and independent. It's projected that 60,000 Michiganders will be enrolled in the program by the end of 2010, according to a study by the Anderson Economic Group. That's a 32-percent increase since 2000.

As a state, we must be ready to deal with the growing demand.

This legislation will go a long way toward addressing the rapidly increasing demand for in-home supports and services, and allow seniors and persons with disabilities to remain healthy and independent in their own homes — instead of forcing them into more costly institutions.

Home Help providers on the MQC3's cutting-edge registry undergo background checks, rigorous screening and training. They also have access to critical training on issues such as adult first aid, CPR, how to lift properly, nutrition, and working with those that have Alzheimer's and dementia.

House Bill 6195 will strengthen the registry and training programs and ensure that seniors and persons with disabilities receive safe, high-quality care in their own homes.

Furthermore, Home Help also saves taxpayers millions of dollars in expensive nursing home costs each year. For many seniors and persons with disabilities, Michigan's Home Help program is a low-cost alternative to nursing homes. It costs less than \$5,000 in Medicaid funds per year to provide in-home care to seniors and persons with disabilities, compared with nearly \$52,000 per year for those in nursing homes, according to the Anderson Economic Group. That means it costs more than 10 times as much to place a loved one in a nursing home as opposed to allowing them to stay in the comfort of their own home.

This plan to strengthen the MQC3 will make Michigan's Home Help even more effective and efficient — without any additional costs to the state. In fact, it will save taxpayers money at a time when we all need relief.

Lots of people talk about government reform and saving taxpayers' money — the MQC3 actually does it. **Because it allows our loved ones to remain healthy and independent in their own homes, provides a place where they can go to find qualified, trained, screened in-home providers, and saves taxpayers' money, we the undersigned urge the Legislature to act now and pass legislation to strengthen Michigan's Home Help program by making permanent the Michigan Quality Community Care Council.**

Sincerely,

*(See next page for list of signatories)*

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## **We the undersigned urge your support of House Bill 6195**

Felicia Turrentine Wasson  
*Associate State Director of Government Affairs*  
**AARP Michigan**

Mary Ablan  
*Executive Director*  
**Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan**

Sarah Slocum  
**Michigan Long Term Care Ombudsman**

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*Executive Director*  
**The Arc Michigan**

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*Executive Director*  
**Michigan Disability Rights Coalition**

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**National Multiple Sclerosis Society – Michigan Chapter**

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